

# **NEWS RELEASE**

# **THE LIBERTARIAN PARTY**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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For additional information: Bill Winter, Director of Communications ♦ (202) 333-0008 Ext. 226

## **Why is Congress spending our money to slaughter endangered African elephants?**

### ***Libertarians demand halt to tax-subsidized 'wildlife butchery'***

WASHINGTON, DC — Hundreds of majestic African elephants are being killed every year by trophy hunters — and U.S. tax dollars are helping to pay for the slaughter.

"This is an outrage that must be stopped," said Steve Dasbach, national chairman of the Libertarian Party. "Congress has already spent millions to promote this wildlife butchery, and if we don't stop the politicians, they're going to spend \$21 million more."

The U.S. House could decide as early as Tuesday whether to continue funding CAMPFIRE — a foreign aid program that funnels money to Zimbabwe to promote big game hunting.

CAMPFIRE (Communal Areas Management Program for Indigenous Resources) subsidizes the hunting of elephants — as well as leopards, lions, baboons, hippos, and zebras.

"Your tax dollars are being turned into the bullets that are killing these magnificent animals," said Dasbach. "That's why the Libertarian Party has joined with the Humane Society of the United States to oppose the program — and demand that CAMPFIRE be doused. We need to stop the politicians before they kill again."

Congress already has funneled \$7 million into this program through the U.S. Agency for International Development, and the agency is now requesting \$21 million more — even though elephants are an endangered species, and 29 African nations have outlawed elephant hunting.

### **The CAMPFIRE program uses U.S. tax money to pay for advertising to lure wealthy European "trophy" hunters to Zimbabwe.**

"Critics of foreign aid, take note: Politicians are using your tax money to persuade wealthy Europeans to go on an elephant-hunting safari in Africa," Dasbach said. "How can they justify that? How can a single American benefit from this?"

CAMPFIRE also spends hundreds of thousands of American dollars a year lobbying to lift the international ban on ivory sales, and to remove elephants from the endangered species list.

"Consider the irony," said Dasbach: "American environmentalists are getting their tax money taken by politicians, who spend it to encourage the slaughter of an endangered species."

"The CAMPFIRE program presents a perfect opportunity for the president and Congress to do a little trophy hunting of their own: Hunt down and kill this deplorable program — and stop using U.S. taxpayers' money to subsidize the slaughter of African elephants."

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Watergate Office Building ♦ 2600 Virginia Avenue, NW, Suite 100 ♦ Washington, DC 20037